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# Quarterly Benefit Statistics

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board  
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## Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Programs

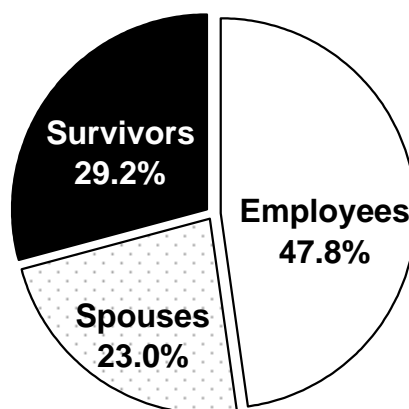
Selected Current Statistics for **October - December 2004**

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**Railroad Retirement and  
Survivor Beneficiaries  
on the Rolls, by Type,  
December 2004**  
(602,000 beneficiaries)



**NOTE.**--About 4,400 employees also received spouse annuities and approximately 2,900 employees also received survivor annuities.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics  
October - December 2004**

Period	Total <sup>1</sup>		Employee annuities				Spouse annuities	Divorced spouse annuities
			Age	Disability <sup>2</sup>		Supple- mental		
	Monthly benefits	Monthly beneficiaries		Under full retirement age	Full retirement age and over			
Number in current-payment status at end of period								
December 2004	735,063	602,002	204,080	48,315	35,318	125,790	139,258	3,467
November 2004	734,541	601,527	204,041	48,224	35,184	125,750	139,031	3,464
October 2004	735,655	602,535	204,334	48,196	35,210	125,852	139,206	3,450
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period								
December 2004	.....	.....	\$1,660.68	\$2,004.17	\$1,515.31	\$41.85	\$640.94	\$386.65
November 2004	.....	.....	1,625.70	1,958.87	1,480.58	41.85	628.25	377.65
October 2004	.....	.....	1,622.75	1,955.91	1,477.74	41.86	627.32	376.81
Number awarded during period								
December 2004	2,142	1,850	380	325	.....	292	557	24
November 2004	3,020	2,495	684	340	.....	525	715	37
October 2004	3,060	2,528	713	382	.....	532	735	25
10/04 - 12/04	8,222	6,873	1,777	1,047	.....	1,349	2,007	86
10/03 - 12/03	8,535	7,225	1,792	1,114	.....	1,310	1,995	102
Average amount awarded during period <sup>3</sup>								
December 2004	.....	.....	\$2,188.99	\$2,345.75	.....	\$40.36	\$766.60	\$453.46
November 2004	.....	.....	2,200.41	2,165.55	.....	41.62	728.61	357.21
October 2004	.....	.....	2,290.66	2,138.77	.....	41.25	832.47	409.09
Benefit payments during period (thousands)								
December 2004	\$752,394	.....	\$331,896	\$97,134	\$52,044	\$5,254	\$87,871	\$1,338
November 2004	755,151	.....	332,494	99,032	51,908	5,274	88,432	1,362
October 2004	754,870	.....	332,298	99,129	51,854	5,282	88,250	1,347
10/04 - 12/04	2,262,415	.....	996,688	295,295	155,806	15,810	264,553	4,047
10/03 - 12/03	2,223,924	.....	981,573	276,188	153,145	15,909	261,478	3,949

<sup>1</sup>Includes dependent parents' and survivor (option) annuities. Except for benefit payment data, excludes insurance lump-sum and residual payment figures. <sup>2</sup>Full retirement age, also known as normal retirement age, is gradually increasing from age 65 to age 67 over a 22 year period. For those born 1/2/1939-1/1/1940, the normal retirement age is 65 and 4 months <sup>3</sup>Regular employee and spouse annuity averages are preliminary estimates.

**NOTE** --MONTHLY BENEFITS in CURRENT-PAYMENT STATUS at the end of month include all benefits awarded to date and payable for the month.

BENEFITS AWARDED consist of those certified for the first time on either a partial or final basis.

BENEFIT PAYMENTS for a month, shown in both the benefit and financial statistics, consist of recurrent monthly checks dated the first of the month, plus retroactive and lump-sum payments made during the month, less returned checks (excluding those not yet distributed by Account), refunds of benefits paid previously, etc. Data are on a cash basis (unaudited) and are partly estimated.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics  
October - December 2004 -- Continued**

Survivor benefits								
Period	Annuities					Children	Insurance lump sums	Residual payments
	Aged widows and widowers	Disabled widows and widowers	Widowed mothers and fathers	Remarried widows and widowers	Divorced widows and widowers			
Number in current-payment status at end of period								
December 2004	145,801	4,932	1,042	5,229	9,620	12,159	.....	.....
November 2004	145,906	4,916	1,050	5,232	9,572	12,120	.....	.....
October 2004	146,438	4,921	1,053	5,243	9,541	12,159	.....	.....
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period								
December 2004	\$1,044.31	\$882.47	\$1,353.88	\$693.02	\$692.97	\$787.17	.....	.....
November 2004	1,030.57	868.23	1,345.94	675.30	675.07	767.44	.....	.....
October 2004	1,028.39	865.28	1,341.47	674.19	673.95	766.06	.....	.....
Number awarded during period								
December 2004	413	23	10	10	69	37	357	7
November 2004	566	22	7	19	68	37	378	2
October 2004	539	14	10	21	47	41	356	8
10/04 - 12/04	1,518	59	27	50	184	115	1,091	17
10/03 - 12/03	1,739	43	38	60	185	156	1,150	11
Average amount awarded during period <sup>3</sup>								
December 2004	\$1,361.86	\$1,195.67	\$1,391.54	\$711.00	\$751.64	\$1,053.95	\$896	\$3,157
November 2004	1,301.89	1,270.71	1,181.61	742.57	728.34	1,005.00	873	2,487
October 2004	1,395.28	1,113.83	1,665.06	763.76	621.23	928.31	882	2,156
Benefit payments during period (thousands)								
December 2004	\$150,701	\$4,493	\$1,494	\$3,549	\$6,615	\$9,601	\$331	\$23
November 2004	150,571	4,457	1,471	3,558	6,545	9,660	346	5
October 2004	150,748	4,385	1,509	3,572	6,503	9,613	323	18
10/04 - 12/04	452,020	13,335	4,474	10,679	19,663	28,874	1,000	46
10/03 - 12/03	454,240	13,111	4,350	10,639	18,927	29,226	1,048	29

**NOTE.**---(Continued from previous page.)

FOR WIDOWS and WIDOWERS aged 60 and over and WIDOWED MOTHERS and FATHERS, the number of benefits being paid and benefit payments include benefits temporarily being continued at spouse annuity rates, pending award of survivor annuities.

INSURANCE LUMP SUMS and RESIDUAL PAYMENTS are each counted only once with respect to an employee's death even though divided among 2 or more persons. Award data for insurance lump sums exclude deferred benefits, i.e., those payable a year after the employee's death.

Data on benefit payments are for CALENDAR MONTHS; all other data are for ACCOUNTING MONTHS ending on approximately the 22nd of each month.

**Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**October - December 2004 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	December 2004	November 2004	October 2004	October 2004 - December 2004	October 2003 - December 2003
<b>RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period<sup>1</sup></b>	\$410,919	\$566,239	\$625,621	\$625,621	\$502,210
<b>Income, total</b>	338,266	256,381	348,917	943,565	1,777,491
Payroll taxes <sup>2</sup>	143,059	160,429	150,604	454,092	480,005
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	100,000	100,000	103,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	95,082	97,451	97,036	289,569	287,958
Transfers from National RR Investment Trust <sup>4</sup>	99,000	.....	.....	99,000	903,000
Transfer from SSEB Account <sup>4</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments <sup>5</sup>	-38	-30	46	-23	-3
Uncashed check credits from U.S. Treasury <sup>6</sup>	40	17	42	99	94
Interest on investments <sup>7</sup>	1,124	-1,484	1,188	828	3,438
<b>Outgo, total</b>	408,807	411,701	408,299	1,228,806	1,606,999
Benefit payments-regular	299,664	300,271	300,023	899,958	875,379
Benefit payments-supplemental	5,254	5,274	5,282	15,810	15,909
Payments of SSA benefits	95,200	97,408	96,995	289,603	287,876
Transfers to National RR Investment Trust <sup>4</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	415,000
Financial interchange adjustment	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Administrative expenses <sup>8</sup>	8,282	8,421	5,789	22,492	12,138
Funding for Office of Inspector General	407	326	210	943	697
<b>Balance at end of period<sup>1</sup></b>	340,379	410,919	566,239	340,379	672,703
<b>NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST</b>					
<b>Cash and investment balance at end of period<sup>9</sup></b>	\$27,007,744	\$26,313,748	\$25,455,197	\$27,007,744	\$24,737,300
<b>DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT<sup>10</sup></b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	-\$18,470	-\$9,278	.....	.....	.....
Congressional apportionments <sup>11</sup>	(12)	(12)	-\$3,000	-\$2,999	-\$4,000
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	3,000	3,000	4,000
Vested dual benefit payments	9,119	9,191	9,278	27,589	30,468
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	-27,589	-18,470	-9,278	-27,589	-30,467

**Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**October - December 2004 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited) -- Continued**

Item	December 2004	November 2004	October 2004	October 2004 - December 2004	October 2003 - December 2003
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$724,050	\$728,368	\$698,189	\$698,189	\$674,606
<b>Income, total</b>	465,547	439,172	472,558	1,377,276	1,362,317
Payroll taxes <sup>2</sup>	177,980	185,142	162,970	526,093	509,172
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	30,000	30,000	39,000
Financial interchange advances <sup>13</sup>	286,055	255,854	278,300	820,209	810,077
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Financial interchange adjustment	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Interest on investments <sup>7</sup>	1,512	-1,825	1,288	975	4,069
<b>Outgo, total</b>	441,143	443,490	442,379	1,327,012	1,306,672
Benefit payments	438,357	440,415	440,286	1,319,058	1,302,168
Repayment of financial interchange advances <sup>13</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
RRB-CMS financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Transfer to Railroad Retirement Account <sup>4</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Administrative expenses <sup>8</sup>	2,655	2,973	2,027	7,655	4,286
Funding for Office of Inspector General	131	102	66	299	218
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	748,454	724,050	728,368	748,454	730,252

<sup>1</sup>Balances include liabilities for uncashed checks. As of the end of December 2004, liabilities were \$9,454,000. <sup>2</sup>Net of U.S. Treasury adjustments for payroll tax refunds to certain carriers and their employees for prior periods. November 2004 amounts reflect RR and SSEB Account refunds of \$6.7 million and \$7.6 million, respectively. <sup>3</sup>Amounts include U.S. Treasury adjustments for prior period income tax reconciliations. <sup>4</sup>Under the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001, as amended, the portion of the RR Account not needed to pay current administrative expenses is to be transferred to the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (Trust). The Trust may transfer funds back to the RR Account for payment of benefits. The balance of the SSEB Account not needed to pay current benefits and administrative expenses is to be transferred to the Trust or to the RR Account. <sup>5</sup>Net of amounts distributed by account. <sup>6</sup>Net of returns of uncashed check credits. Includes undistributed canceled checks under 1-year limited payability. <sup>7</sup>Net of adjustments for payroll tax refunds (see note 2). November 2004 amounts reflect RR and SSEB Account refunds of \$3.1 million and \$3.5 million, respectively. <sup>8</sup>Reflects adjustments for prior periods. <sup>9</sup>Source: National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust. <sup>10</sup>Total vested dual benefits paid during a fiscal year are limited to the amount appropriated to the Dual Benefits Payments Account for that year. Any amounts not spent are returned to the U.S. Treasury. The benefit appropriation for fiscal year 2005 was \$107.1 million, including income tax transfers. The appropriation for fiscal year 2004 was \$118.3 million. Funds for October through December 2003 and 2004 were provided under a continuing resolution. <sup>11</sup>Includes a small amount of interest on uncashed checks. <sup>12</sup>Less than \$500. <sup>13</sup>Includes interest.

NOTE.--Data relate to CALENDAR month.

Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

**Table 3: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Benefit Statistics  
October - December 2004**

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
<b>Unemployment</b>						
December 2004	1,367	787	103	3,357	3,321	83
November 2004	834	445	86	2,634	2,608	67
October 2004	570	427	51	2,474	2,425	98
7/04 - 12/04	6,330	4,540	396	5,448	5,372	372
7/03 - 12/03	8,513	6,117	356	7,268	7,152	359
<b>Sickness</b>						
December 2004	1,491	1,262	104	6,600	6,573	70
November 2004	1,489	1,314	84	6,672	6,644	67
October 2004	1,489	1,419	50	6,654	6,596	107
7/04 - 12/04	15,644	12,425	510	13,321	13,075	874
7/03 - 12/03	17,026	13,497	552	14,401	14,185	951
	Number of payments			Averages <sup>1</sup>		
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week	Benefit payments (thousands)
<b>Unemployment</b>						
December 2004	5,812	5,612	200	8.9	\$273.50	\$3,312
November 2004	4,747	4,640	107	9.1	275.20	2,233
October 2004	4,591	4,431	160	9.1	275.60	2,319
7/04 - 12/04	28,123	26,503	1,620	9.0	275.40	14,381
7/03 - 12/03	33,738	32,319	1,419	8.8	270.75	17,268
<b>Sickness</b>						
December 2004	12,756	12,603	153	9.0	\$277.00	\$4,346
November 2004	12,424	12,282	142	9.1	277.40	4,042
October 2004	12,228	12,043	185	9.2	278.45	4,237
7/04 - 12/04	72,959	69,464	3,495	9.0	279.10	24,350
7/03 - 12/03	79,098	75,305	3,793	9.0	272.55	27,713

<sup>1</sup>Benefit days--average benefit days per registration period. Benefit per week--equal to 5 times average daily benefit.

**NOTE.**--An unemployment claimant files only one APPLICATION for a benefit year. A sickness claimant files an APPLICATION at the beginning of each period of continuing sickness.

NORMAL BENEFIT ACCOUNTS are opened when the first payment is made.

The number of BENEFICIARIES is the count of persons receiving unemployment or sickness benefits in the period. Those receiving both normal and extended benefits for unemployment or sickness are counted only once in the total for each type.

PAYMENTS generally cover 14-day registration periods. Benefits are payable for days over 7 during an employee's first 14-day registration period. Sickness benefits are paid for days of sickness after the 4th consecutive day of sickness in the first claim in each period of continuing sickness; for subsequent registration periods in the same period of continuing sickness, payments are made for all days of sickness over 4 whether or not consecutive. Unemployment benefits are paid for days of unemployment over 4. However, in the case of unemployment benefits due to a legal authorized strike, unemployment benefits are not paid until after a 14-day waiting period. Non-strikers unemployed due to an illegal strike must also serve a 14-day waiting period.

(Continued on next page.)

**Table 4: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**October - December 2004 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	December 2004	November 2004	October 2004	October 2004 - December 2004	October 2003 - December 2003
<b>RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$92,740	\$88,579	\$83,537	\$83,537	\$47,921
<b>Income, total</b>	969	10,556	11,828	23,353	33,596
Contributions	19	10,730	11,281	22,029	33,416
Interest on investments <sup>1</sup>	1,322	37	30	1,389	-245
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments <sup>2</sup>	-371	-211	517	-65	424
Transfers from Administration Fund	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>Outgo, total</b>	7,809	6,395	6,786	20,990	25,293
Unemployment benefit payments	3,312	2,233	2,319	7,864	10,187
Sickness benefit payments	4,346	4,042	4,237	12,624	14,848
Funding for Office of Inspector General	152	121	229	502	258
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	85,901	92,740	88,579	85,901	56,223
<b>RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION FUND</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$8,346	\$7,863	\$6,637	\$6,637	\$8,304
<b>Income, total</b>	113	2,654	2,613	5,379	5,056
Contributions	4	2,654	2,613	5,270	5,056
Interest on investments	109	.....	.....	109	.....
<b>Outgo, total</b>	1,826	2,170	1,386	5,383	3,102
Administrative expenses	1,826	2,170	1,386	5,383	3,102
Transfers to RUI Account	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	6,633	8,346	7,863	6,633	10,257

<sup>1</sup>Includes a correction from the prior fiscal year. <sup>2</sup>Net of distributed amounts.

**NOTE.**--(Continued from previous page.)

BENEFIT PAYMENTS are on a cash basis (unaudited) and represent amounts paid during the period including retroactive payments, less recoveries distributed to beneficiary accounts, refunds, and cancellations of previous payments.

ADMINISTRATION FUND balances reflect current adjustments to income and disbursements for previous years.

All unemployment and sickness data relate to CALENDAR MONTHS.

**Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.**

<b>Table 5: Benefits and Beneficiaries -- December 2004</b>
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**RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR**

<b>Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)</b>	\$752,394,000
Regular benefits	738,021,000
Vested dual benefits	9,119,000
Supplemental annuities	5,254,000

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Total benefits being paid at end of month</b>	735,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	288,000	\$1,701
Supplemental	126,000	42
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	143,000	635
Aged widows' and widowers'	146,000	1,044
Other survivors'	33,000	777
<b>Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month</b>	602,000	.....

**UNEMPLOYMENT-SICKNESS**

	<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>Sickness</b>
<b>Benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)</b>	\$3,312,000	\$4,346,000
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	3,400	6,600
<b>Average payment per week</b>	\$274	\$277